

• What is claimed is:

1. A method of storing data on a network, comprising:
identifying available resources located on a network;

and

5 allocating storage space on at least one identified
resource on the network for storage of data.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

indicating the amount and location of resources

10 available on the network;

creating a file allocation table identifying the
storage available on the network resources; and

15 sending the file allocation table to the identified
resources, and reserving storage space on a respective
resource based on the file allocation table.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

searching for the data path to upload data based on at
least one of latency, hop count and availability;

20 discarding undesirable resource locations for
uploading; and

sending data to the identified resources for storage.

4. A method of distributing data across a network,
comprising:

searching the network resources for available storage
space;

5. allocating network resources based on a file
allocation table created as a result of the search; and
sending the data to the allocated resources for
storage.

10 5. The method of claim 5, wherein the resources include
servers connected to the network and the file allocation
table includes at least information regarding the
availability and location of the resources.

15 6. A method of retrieving data stored at multiple
locations on a network, comprising:

requesting a file allocation table including the
location of stored data;

searching for a data path to retrieve the data;

20 sending a request to each location having data stored
thereon; and

reassembling the data at the multiple locations.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the data includes header information identifying at least where the data is to be sent.

5 8. A method of storing data on a network at a different location from a client requesting storage, comprising:
receiving data from a user server and examining header information in the data for instructions;
replacing the header information with new header
10 information; and
sending the data over the network to at least one server identified on the network in the header information.

9. A system for storing data over a network, comprising:
15 a client requesting resources for storing data over the network;
a central server processing the request from the client and allocating resources to the client for storing the data; and
20 a vendor server for storing the data, the vendor server being selected by the central server based on the processing.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein

the central server identifies which vendor server has space available for storing the data, and

the vendor server indicates to the central server the availability of space on the server.

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11. The system of claim 10, wherein

the central server includes a file allocation table to store at least information about the availability and location of resources on the network for storing data, and

10 the vendor server stores at least a first portion of the data, and another vendor server stores at least a second portion of the data.

12. A system for allocating resources on a network to

15 store data, comprising:

a plurality of servers to store data; and
a central server identifying at least one of the plurality of servers to store the data,

the plurality of servers residing at a location different from the location from which data storage is requested.

20 13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a client requesting the storage of data on at least one of the plurality of servers located at a different location,

the central server creating a file allocation table to
5 store at least information about the availability and location of the plurality of servers.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the file allocation table is created based on information supplied by the
10 plurality of servers to the central server.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the vendor server is connected to a local network, the vendor server using resources on the local network for storage of the data.
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